

and as Chief of the Southeast Region Branch in the National Guard Bureau's Counterdrug Program before assuming his position as Plans, Action Officer in October, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, in each of these counterdrug positions, Lieutenant Colonel Lee has made a personal impact in an ongoing struggle that, as a nation, we have yet to win. He has labored passionately to educate Members of Congress and their staff members on the unique abilities of the Army and Air National Guard in stemming the plague of illegal drugs from our neighborhoods. Our nation is stronger today because his sound counsel, his practical knowledge and his tireless pursuit of the possible.

Lieutenant Colonel Lee has received numerous, well-deserved, military awards and decorations for his service to the nation. No award is more appropriate, nor more fulfilling for him, than the knowledge that his efforts give America's youth a better chance at a drug-free future.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Lee will demonstrate the same dedication and high competence in his new instructional position at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas that has been his trademark with the National Guard Bureau. I would ask my colleagues of the 106th Congress to join me in paying special tribute to this citizen-soldier and patriot. We thank him, and wish him the very best in his continued service as an officer in the Army National Guard.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE FEATURES PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, in introducing the National Defense Features Program Enhancement Act of 2000, a bill we intend to push to enactment next year if the Government of Japan, the Japanese vehicle manufactures, and the Japanese carriers continue to undermine our efforts to breathe life into the National Defense Features program.

We created the NDF program because we believed it would be the most cost-effective way to augment the substantial investment that is being made in new ships by the Navy. Having seen one very attractive proposal by which vessels would be built to carry cars from Japan to the United States and refrigerated products on the return leg, we authorized and appropriated funds in the mid-1990s to jump start the program. Since then, we have continued to look for ways to make the program as attractive as possible to companies to build ships in the United States for operation in the United States-Japan and other trades. In just the past week, for example, Congress approved as part of the National Defense Authorization Bill for FY 2001 a provision that would expand the Secretary of Defense's authority to finance appropriate projects under the NDF program.

In authorizing this program, we had hoped that the Government of Japan in particular would find mutual defense benefits in promoting it. We have written the Prime Minister, we have met with the Ambassador, we have received expressions of support from the Vice President of the United States and our Secretary of Defense, and yet nothing seems to have come of our efforts so far.

Unfortunately, we have regularly heard the same response. The Government of Japan insists that the decision to employ NDF tonnage is strictly a matter for the vehicle manufacturers and shipping companies to make since it involves a commercial matter. They in turn have argued that, since the program focuses on mutual defense, the Government should take the lead. As so often happens, no one has been willing to step forward to take the initiative.

As our colleagues can no doubt appreciate, our patience is beginning to wear thin. I understand our able Secretary of Defense has recently indicated the importance of the NDF program in discussions with his Japanese counterpart. Perhaps we will finally see some movement. If not, the time to legislate will have arrived.

Our bill is designed to create the necessary incentives for the Government of Japan and the vehicle and shipping interests to promote the NDF program. If the Federal Maritime Commission finds that vessels that would be built in the United States under the NDF program are not employed in the particular sector of a trade route in the foreign commerce of the United States for which they are designed to operate and if that sector of the trade route has been dominated historically by citizens of an allied nation, then the Commission shall take action to counteract the restrictive trade practices that have led to this situation.

We trust all concerned appreciate our determination to bring the NDF program to life.

COMMENDING THE RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY SUPPORT COMMITTEE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the "all volunteer" Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee. President Dwight D. Eisenhower once remarked that, "Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America." The volunteerism shown by the Cemetery Support Committee, for the past 22 years, is a prime model of President Eisenhower's belief.

The Cemetery Support Committee was established in 1978 with a simple mission, but one with heart behind it, to preserve and enhance the Riverside National Cemetery as a National Shrine. What has come to pass is no less than amazing.

The Riverside National Cemetery is currently the second largest resting place in our national cemetery system, with 125,000 men and women of our armed forces standing si-

lent vigil with us today. Ten short years into the new millennium, it is expected to be the largest cemetery in the national system. And in six decades it will have more than 1.4 million honored veterans. That will make Riverside National Cemetery larger than the Arlington National Cemetery—the most widely recognized, which is already at capacity with a quarter of a million veterans.

The Cemetery Support Committee's work has made Riverside National Cemetery much more than the facts stated above—they have created a solemn historical place where Americans today and tomorrow can go to reflect upon the memory and sacrifices of past and present generations who fought for America, democracy and freedom. Four to five thousand people each Memorial Day and Veterans Day attend ceremonies organized by the Committee and held at the Riverside National Cemetery. They have raised private funds to purchase numerous items for the beautification of the cemetery, such as flower cones used at the Veterans' grave-sites by family and loved ones. Fund-raising has also been undertaken for the procurement and site construction of memorials to be placed in the cemetery—the most recent being the Veterans Memorial dedicated on May 27, 2000; and future ones being POW/MIA, Chaplaincy Corp. and Medics & Corpsmen memorials.

Those who have worked so selflessly to create a place that is, as the Cemetery Support Committee likes to say, "inspiring and stimulating our youth to become worthy citizens of this great country," have devoted their hearts to making the Riverside National Cemetery the National Shrine that it is today and well into tomorrow. I would like to take a moment to specifically recognize the current Board Members of the Cemetery Support Committee. They are: Jewel Beck, 1995; Paul Adkins, Chairman, 1998; Tom Hohmann, Secretary, 1992; Alta Marlin, Vice Chairwoman, 1989; Gery Porter, Treasurer, 1995; Walt Schiller, 1978; Judith Stemberg, 1989; Mike Warren, 1992; John Campbell, 1982; Guenther Griebau, 1999; Carolyn Jaeggli, 1986; Audrey Peterson, 1994; Elsie Porter, 1985; Pat Smith, 1998; and James Valdez, 1978.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I will close by asking that each American awake each day dedicated to giving back to our families, friends, communities and nation as the Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee has done. As a people we must "never forget" those who have died and fought to make America great. God bless you and God bless America.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support HR 3218, the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act. This bill takes a step toward protecting the integrity and security of the Social Security number by ensuring that window envelopes used by the Federal Government do not display an individual's Social

Security number. HR 3218 will help protect millions of Americans from the devastating crime of identity theft, which is a growing problem in my district and throughout the country.

This bill will be partially helpful to senior citizens who rely on Social Security. These seniors could lose a lifetime's worth of savings if a criminal obtained their Social Security number. We owe it to America's senior citizens to make sure that they are not exposed to the risk of identity theft as a price of receiving their Social Security benefits.

While this bill does represent a good step toward protecting privacy, I would remind my colleagues that much more needs to be done to ensure the Social Security number is not used as means of facilitating identity crimes. The increasing prevalence of identity theft is directly related to the use of the Social Security number as a uniform identifier.

For all intents and purposes, the Social Security number is already a national identification number. Today, in the majority of states, no American can get a job, open a bank account, get a drivers' license, or receive a birth certificate for one's child without presenting their Social Security number. So widespread has the use of the Social Security number become that a member of my staff had to produce a Social Security number in order to get a fishing license!

Unscrupulous people have found ways to exploit this system and steal another's identity—the ubiquity of the Social Security number paved the way for these very predictable abuses and crimes. Congress must undo the tremendous injury done to the people's privacy and security by the federal government's various mandates which transformed the Social Security number into a universal identifier.

In order to stop the disturbing trend toward the use of the Social Security number as a uniform ID I have introduced the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act (HR 220), which forbids the use of the Social Security number for purposes not related to Social Security. The Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act also contains a blanket prohibition on the use of identifiers to "investigate, monitor, oversee, or otherwise regulate" American citizens. Mr. Speaker, prohibiting the Federal Government from using standard identifiers will help protect Americans from both private and public sector criminals.

While much of the discussion of identity theft and related threats to privacy has concerned private sector criminals, the major threat to privacy lies in the power uniform identifiers give to government officials. I am sure I need not remind my colleagues of the sad history of government officials of both parties using personal information contained in IRS or FBI files against their political enemies, or of the cases of government officials rummaging through the confidential files of celebrities and/or their personal acquaintances, or of the Medicare clerk who sold confidential data about Medicare patients to a Health Maintenance Organization. After considering these cases, one cannot help but shudder at the potential for abuse if an unscrupulous government official is able to access one's complete medical, credit, and employment history by simply typing the citizens' "uniform identifier" into a database.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I enthusiastically join in supporting HR 3218 which will help protect millions of senior citizens and other Americans from identity theft by strengthening the confidentiality of the Social Security number. I also urge my colleagues to protect all Americans from the threat of national identifiers by supporting my Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote earlier this evening on measures before the House because I was in transit to Washington from Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 531, concerning a resolution (H. Res. 631) honoring the members of the crew of the guided missile destroyer U.S.S. *Cole*. I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall No. 532, concerning a resolution (H. Con. Res. 415) expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a National Children's Memorial Day. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 533, concerning the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act (H.R. 3218).

HONORING MS. RHONDA GERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AID TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Rhonda Gerson, Executive Director of Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, for her service on behalf of domestic violence victims.

A 1998 report by the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that the rate of domestic violence in many categories has been declining over the past decade. I believe the downward trend is directly attributable to the outreach efforts by such individuals as Rhonda Gerson.

Ms. Gerson has been the Executive Director of Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse since 1981. For the first five years, she served in this capacity without ever receiving a paycheck. During her time with the agency, Ms. Gerson has advocated for the safety of battered women on a local, state and national level.

In the early 1980s, Ms. Gerson served on a Houston Police Department (HPD) task force to review its domestic violence policy, and, in the late 1980s, she served on a second task force, which resulted in the creation of the HPD Family Violence Unit. In 1984, Ms. Gerson co-chaired a pilot project at the Harris County District Attorney's Office that ultimately developed into the Family Criminal Law Division. In 1987, the National Council of Jewish Women—Greater Houston Section awarded

her the Hannah G. Solomon Award as a result of her leadership and action for social change in the area of domestic violence victims/survivors.

Ms. Gerson was actively involved with the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV), and from 1989 to 1994, she was the chair of the Board of Directors. Under her leadership, TCFV grew to be the largest state coalition in the country due to it stepping up to the plate and re-opening the National Domestic Violence Hotline when its closure stunned the domestic violence community.

According to Deborah Tucker, current Executive Director of the National Training Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence and former Executive Director of TCFV, Ms. Gerson was an integral part of the Public Policy Committee for TCFV and made an incredible contribution to the laws and policies designed to better protect battered women and to hold offenders accountable. When asked to describe Ms. Gerson's accomplishments, Ms. Tucker said, "I think she is a person who is capable of both seeing the big picture and of noticing the impact that public policy initiatives and programs might have on one individual. Her sensitivity and native intelligence are among the most developed of any persons I have known. She stands out in a quiet and deliberate way, through hard work and thoughtful consideration of the complexities involved in human behavior."

In 1993, Ms. Gerson was appointed by Supreme Court Justice Tom Phillips as a member of the Texas team to attend the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference on confronting violence in the family. She was a leader in the effort to create the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, for which she has served as Treasurer of the Board since 1997.

In 1998, Ms. Gerson helped found the National Training Center on Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence, and she currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors. In only two years, she has helped the agency to grow to six staff members and an operating budget of over \$600,000.

Mr. Speaker, many victims of domestic violence have been touched by Rhonda Gerson's compassionate spirit. I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Ms. Gerson for a lifetime of dedication and commitment to the Houston community and to all victims of domestic violence.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters between myself and Chairman ARCHER regarding H.R. 3218: